Newsletter of the Birdwatchers' Society of Andhra Pradesh
New Series Volume 14 Number 9 October 2017

FIELD OUTING: Sunday, 22nd October 2017: Himayat Sagar. Meeting point: Punjagutta (opp. Mangatrai Pearls), 6.00AM.

Himayat Sagar has always been a popular birding site, with birders usually getting a good cross-section of birds on the lake as well as the surrounding areas. Also, now that the migration season has started, we should have good sightings of at least some of the migrant species. This would be a half-day trip. Carry water, breakfast and, if you wish, an umbrella. For further details and to co-ordinate, please contact Ms Surekha Aitabathula (99490-38532). We will be car-pooling, so please let Surekha know if you need a ride, and also if you can accommodate any others in your vehicle. Non-BSAP members are most welcome; however, a voluntary contribution to the Society of Rs.100.00 each will be appreciated.

INDOOR MEETING: Talk by Anita Negi: WADER IDENTIFICATION
Friday, 27th October 2017, 6.00PM: Hamburg Hall, Goethe-zentrum Hyderabad, 20 Journalist's Colony, Road No. 3, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad – 500 034. (For directions, please contact 94905-09251 or 040-65526443/23350040)

Our member, Anita Negi will speak about the intricacies of Wader identification. She is an accomplished and knowledgeable birder, and her talk promises to be very interesting and educative. Since we are at the beginning of the migration season, this is a good time for this talk, and we urge our members to attend and take advantage of this session.

TRIP REPORT: OSMAN SAGAR, September 1, 2017

Text: Shubha Murti

Greater Flamingo (Photo: Krishna Murti)

We set out in a convoy of cars and motorbikes from Punjagutta Crossroads to Osman Sagar in the early morning hours of September 17th. It was wonderful to see such a large turnout (close to 30 people), including several first time birders.

After a short break for tea and a second brief stop at a prearranged meeting point near the Outer Ring Road, we reached Osman Sagar. The overcast sky and cool temperature made for a comfortable morning, though the lighting was less than ideal for the photographers in the group. It was pleasantly quiet and the air was noticeably cleaner, being far removed from the hustle and bustle of Hyderabad city.

Driving down a small dirt road en route to the lake we saw several Blue-tailed Bee-eaters (*Merops philippinus*), Green Bee-eaters (*Merops orientalis*), Ashy Prinias (*Prinia socialis*), House Crows (*Corvus splendens*), Red-wattled Lapwings (*Vanellus indicus*), Greater Coucals (*Centropus sinensis*), etc. It was just an early preview to what lay ahead.

As we stepped out of our cars and walked up to the lake, someone in the group spotted a lone Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) at the north end of the lake. We newbies got excited and strained to get a good sighting through our binoculars.

Our excitement increased ten-fold when we later came upon a large group of them feeding in the lake at the south end. I presumed they were migratory birds but would later learn during the debriefing that the Greater Flamingos have been residents in Osman Sagar since summer and have maintained an extended presence in this area over the past 3 or 4 years.

Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark
(Photo: Dr G Samuel Sukumar)

Oriental Skylark
(Photo: Dr G Samuel Sukumar)

Given the large entourage, we naturally separated into smaller, manageable groups and set about exploring the area around the lake. Some of the experienced birders like Anita were happy to guide the newbies and point out various birds – Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark (*Eremopterix griseus*), Oriental Skylark (*Alauda gulgula*), Plain Prinia (*Prinia inornata*), Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), etc. nestled among the brush and marshy grass around the lake. Some of the expert birders ventured out in separate groups and spotted many other species that we missed.

Kentish Plover (Photo: Krishna Murti)

Plain Prinia (Photo: Krishna Murti)

Looking out into the water, we spotted many shorebirds including Eurasian Coots (*Fulica atra*), a Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) and Little Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax niger*). Flying overhead from time to time were Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), Indian Spot-billed Ducks (*Anas poecilorhyncha*), and several other birds, including a Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*).

Pied Kingfisher (Photo: Krishna Murti)

Purple Heron (Photo: Dr G Samuel Sukumar)

Black-winged Stilt (Photo: Krishna Murti)

As we headed south to get a better view of the Black-winged Stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*), Little Stints (*Calidris minuta*) and Wood Sandpipers (*Tringa glareola*) feeding frantically in the marshy area, we saw a large flock of River Terns (*Sterna aurantia*) nesting along the muddy banks of the lake.

River Tern (Photo: Dr G Samuel Sukumar)

Wood Sandpiper (Photo: Dr G Samuel Sukumar)

A few Whiskered Terns (*Chlidonias hybrida*) and Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) were resting or preening alongside the River Terns. Numerous Kentish Plovers, with the distinct black bars on either side of the breast, were spotted feeding along the bank near the Terns.

Sykes's Lark (Photo: Dr G Samuel Sukumar)

As the morning grew late, we all gathered for a debriefing and feedback session. Humayun Taher thanked everyone for their participation and noted the number of new birders present. He then solicited input from the group on birds spotted. Fortunately, Sreenivas Nalla had tabulated a fairly complete list which he agreed to update with any omissions and to forward to the team.

Humayun then briefly discussed the mystery of the extended presence of the Greater Flamingo in the Hyderabad area. Over the past 3 to 4 years, this migrant has been staying in the area much longer than expected and the presence of juveniles suggest that they may even be breeding nearby (though no direct evidence of local nesting has been observed). Lastly, Humayun asked the group for any feedback. Feedback was generally very positive with a suggestion that, going forward, the group try to get an earlier start to ensure optimal birding.

Baya Weaver
(Photo: Dr G Samuel Sukumar)

Following the feedback session, most of the group sat down to enjoy their packed breakfast, and a few of us left early. On our way out, we spotted several Indian Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) foraging in the brush as well as well as a Grey Francolin (*Francolinus pondicerianus*) scurrying across the road.

Overall, it was an enjoyable outing, especially for those that have never been to Osman Sagar. Seventy-four different species were identified and a number of friendships were renewed and new acquaintances formed. I am looking forward to the next BSAP monthly outing!

Indian Peafowl (Photo: Dr G Samuel Sukumar)

Little Egret (Photo: Krishna Murti)

The complete list of birds seen is given below:

Sl. No.	Species Name	Sl. No.	Species Name	Sl. No.	Species Name
1	Little Cormorant	20	Common Coot	39	Glossy Ibis
2	Zitting Cisticola	21	Black-winged Stilt	40	Black-headed Ibis
3	Pied Bushchat	22	White-throated Kingfisher	41	Little Stint
4	Green Bee-eater	23	Purple Heron	42	Kentish Plover
5	House Crow	24	Common Tern	43	Grey Heron
6	Black-shouldered Kite	25	River Tern	44	Lesser Whistling Duck
7	Red-vented Bulbul	26	Whiskered Tern	45	Painted Stork
8	House Sparrow	27	Little Tern	46	Oriental Skylark
9	Ashy Prinia	28	Greater Flamingo	47	Spot-billed Duck
10	Plain Prinia	29	Asian Koel	48	Pied Kingfisher
11	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	30	Greater Coucal	49	Large Grey Babbler
12	Indian Silverbill	31	Large Egret	50	Shikra
13	White-browed Wagtail	32	Intermediate Egret	51	Barn Swallow
14	Common Tailorbird	33	Little Egret	52	Asian Palm Swift
15	Baya Weaver	34	Cattle Egret	53	Greater Short-toed Lark
16	Spotted Dove	35	Common Hawk Cuckoo	54	Scaly-breasted Munia
17	Grey Francolin	36	Indian Peafowl	55	Grey-bellied Cuckoo
18	Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark	37	Red-wattled Lapwing	56	Jungle Babbler
19	Sykes's Lark	38	Red-naped Ibis	57	Laughing Dove

Sl. No.	Species Name	Sl. No.	Species Name	Sl. No.	Species Name
58	Rose-ringed Parakeet	64	Little Ringed Plover	70	Asian Pied Starling
59	Spotted Dove	65	Common Moorhen	71	Oriental Darter
60	Red Avadavat	66	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	72	Lesser Sand Plover
61	Common Greenshank	67	Indian Robin	73	Painted Francolin
62	Wood Sandpiper	68	White Wagtail	74	Black Kite
63	Common Sandpiper	69	Black Drongo		

The group

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TALE OF THE BULBUL

Ashish Jha

(In follow-up to the Indoor Meeting on September 7th, 2017)

The Persian word '*Bulbul*' invokes an image of a spirited bird flitting through the bushes and filling our backyards with the sweet symphony of nature's orchestra. With overall drab plumage, Bulbuls make up for the expected avian aesthetics by strikingly coloured vent feathers, cheek and throat feathers or a pointed crest. With over 140 species found across the vast span of Africa and Asia, India is home to 22 species of Bulbuls with several species found nowhere outside the country.

One such endemic bird is the Yellow-throated Bulbul. This bird is largely found in scrub forests along the slopes of Eastern Ghats and inland hillocks. However, this shy and rare bird is threatened with extinction (IUCN category 'Vulnerable') due to habitat destruction. The region where the bird is found is quarried for granite and the habitat is also under the pressure of grazing and lopping.

Several characteristics of this species caught my attention that made it an ideal model for my PhD research. In the past 170 years since its description, only 7 nests have been identified and breeding details published so far. This bird clearly has discrete small populations spread across Peninsular India which makes it more vulnerable to stochastic extinctions. Unlike other congeneric Bulbuls – Red-vented Bulbul, White-browed Bulbul and Red-whiskered Bulbul – which do not hesitate to flock together to forage, this timid and shy bird avoids mixed foraging with other Bulbuls.

Can being passive and submissive have evolutionary benefits? That can be a good research problem to address, but for me, I was more interested in the bird's DNA which holds the window to its millions of years of evolution. I wished to know how this bird evolved. When did this bird evolve and come to occupy its present habitat? Also, how are the different populations connected – do the birds move across regions to breed or are they landlocked within tiny suitable habitats?

To address these questions, I collected blood/feather samples from the birds and processed the samples and isolated DNA at LaCONES. Birds were caught using mistnets under the vigilance of the Forest Department and the birds were tagged with leg rings which makes the individual identification easier.

So far, the results show that the Yellow-throated Bulbul does not have a closely related sister species and has a unique evolutionary history. I am working towards delineating the historical time when this species evolved and understanding the geology of Peninsular India back then, which may answer the question why this bird is restricted to Peninsular India.

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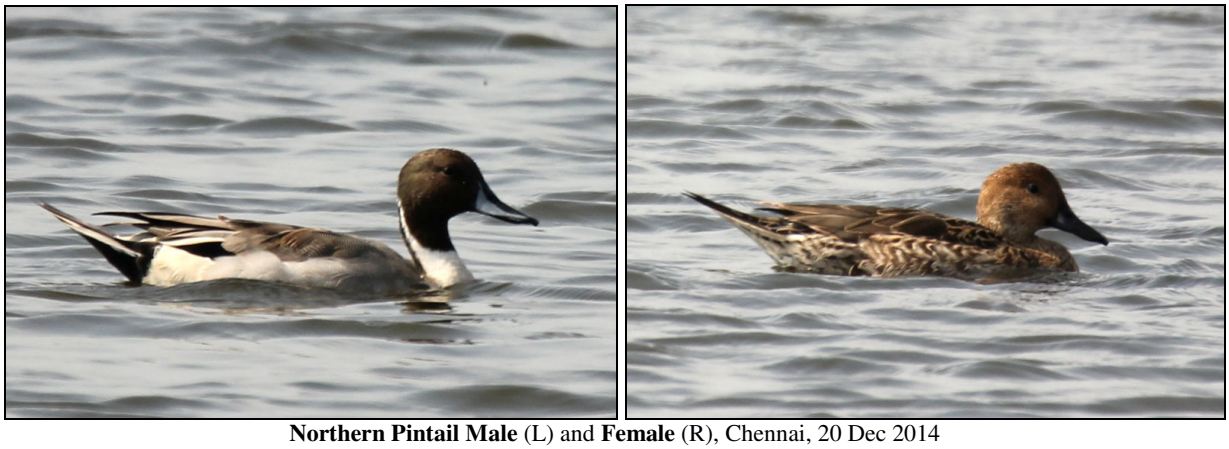
Bird of the Month

Umesh Mani

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*)



Northern Pintail Male (L) and **Female** (R), Chennai, 20 Dec 2014

Order: Anseriformes
Family: Anatidae
Genus: *Anas*
Species: *A. acuta*
Size: 56-74 cm

Description & distribution: The Northern Pintail is a fairly large duck of the *Anatidae* family, with the female being up to 10 cm smaller than the male. It has a wide distribution, breeding across northern parts of Europe and Asia (south till about Poland and Mongolia) and North America (including Canada, Alaska and mid-western United States), and wintering south of its breeding range almost all the way to the Equator, including Panama, northern parts of sub-Saharan Africa, and tropical South Asia. Unusually for a bird with such a large range, there are no recognized sub-species, with the exception of Eaton's Pintail (*A. eatoni*), which is often said to be a separate species with its own sub-species, *A. e. eatoni* of the Kerguelen Islands and *A. e. drygalskyi* of the Crozet Islands.

The Northern Pintail male, in breeding plumage, is unmistakable, with a chocolate-brown head, bluish bill and bright white breast, with the white extending up the sides of the neck. It has attractively-patterned grey-brown-and-black upperparts and sides, with elongated grey feathers with black central stripes laid across the back from the shoulders. The legs are blue-grey. The underside of the tail is black, contrasting with a yellow vent.

However, the easiest diagnostic feature is the set of long, pointed central tail feathers, extending up to 10 cm beyond the tail tips. The female is mainly mottled in light brown and buff, with the same characteristic elongated body and tapering tail, though without the pins. The non-breeding male resembles the female, but retains the upperwing pattern and the long grey shoulder feathers. The juvenile is similar to the female, but have less marked mottling and duller brown speculum.

Habitat & behaviour: The Northern Pintail is usually found in pairs or flocks, in unwooded wetlands like wet grasslands, the sides of lakes, or tundra, but prefers reed-fringed, vegetation-covered lakes and *jheels*. While wintering, it also uses other water habitats like sheltered estuaries, brackish marshes and coastal lagoons. In non-breeding season, it is highly gregarious, forming very large mixed flocks along with other species of ducks. It walks well on land, and is also a good swimmer. The flight is very fast, with the wings slightly swept back (unlike other ducks whose wings stick straight out of the body). It shows a speculum in flight, which is black in males and dark brown in females, bordered at the rear with a white so prominent that it is visible even at a distance of around 1,600m.

The call of the male Northern Pintail is a soft *proop-proop* whistle, while the female utters a descending quack, and a low croak when flushed. Its diet is mainly plant material that it picks up by dabbling or upending in shallow water. Its long neck enables it to take food from the bottom of water bodies up to 30 cm deep, which is beyond the reach of other dabbling ducks. The wintering diet is mainly seeds and rhizomes of aquatic plants, occasionally including roots, grain and other seeds in fields; during breeding, it mainly eats invertebrate animals, including aquatic insects, molluscs and crustaceans.

Nesting: The breeding season of the Northern Pintail is mainly between May to July. The nest is a shallow depression in open marshy grassland, but often at some distance from water. It is lined with down feathers, rushes and other plant material. The usual clutch consists of 7-12 eggs, cream or pale sea-green with buffish tinge. Birds have also been known to produce a replacement clutch as late as July, in cases where the first clutch is destroyed by predators.

Local name: The Northern Pintail is known as *'Sand'* or *'Seenkh-par'* in Hindi, *'Markalian'* in Tamil, *'Dig hans'* in Bengali and *'Nejal hans'* or *'Dighal negi'* in Assamese.

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BAR-TAILED vs BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

Srinivas Nalla

The two cousins, Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) and Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) belong to the family Scolopacidae and genus Limosa.

The Bar-tailed Godwit breeds in Arctic coasts and tundra, and winters in temperate and tropic regions. Its migration is the longest-known non-stop flight of any bird. For the Black-tailed Godwit, on the other hand, the breeding range extends from Iceland through Europe and areas of central Asia and its wintering region ranges from the Indian Sub-continent to Australia, Western Europe and West Africa.

The adult Bar-tailed Godwit has blue-grey legs and a slightly upturned bi-coloured bill, pink at the base and black towards the tip. The neck, breast and belly are unbroken brick-red in breeding plumage, and off-white in winter. The back is mottled grey.

Black-tailed Godwit (Breeding)
(Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

Black-tailed Godwit (Non-breeding)
(Photo: Gokul Krishna Addanki)

The Black-tailed Godwit has a long bill, neck and legs. During the breeding season, the bill has a yellowish or orange-pink base and dark tip. The legs are dark grey, brown or black. In winter, adult Black-tailed Godwits have a uniform brown-grey breast and upperparts in contrast to the Bar-tailed Godwit's streaked back.

Bar-tailed Godwit (Breeding)
(Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

The Bar-tailed Godwit is distinguished from the Black-tailed Godwit by its barred, rather than wholly black tail and a lack of white wing bars. When they are on the ground, it is not so easy to notice the tail pattern and it would be difficult to identify them by referring to the tail pattern; however, the Black-tailed Godwit's longer bill, legs and neck and its slender body can serve as the diagnostic features.

It can also be noticed that, in flight, only for the Bar-tailed Godwit, the legs project beyond its tail, whereas for the Black-tailed Godwit, the toes and a portion of the legs are also projected beyond the tail.

The Black-tailed Godwit's upper parts are relatively plainer, whereas for a Bar-tailed Godwit, they are heavily patterned. Both the birds have been classified as Near Threatened in the IUCN Red List. Their population, in recent times, is found rapidly decreasing owing to changes in agriculture practices.

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THE PEN & THE BINOCULAR (part-3)

Humayun Taher

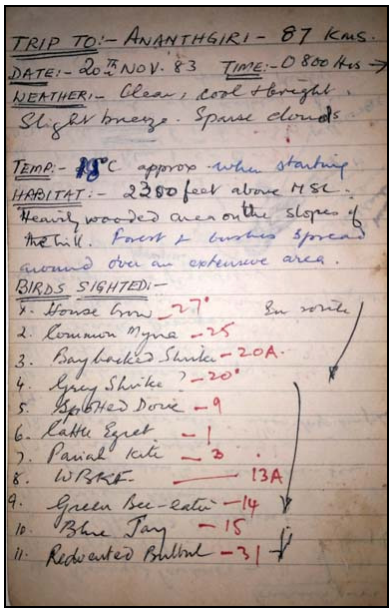
Ananthagiri Hills in Vikarabad was about the farthest destination for the members of the BSAP in the early days. The drive was long (more than 80 km) and the area was so interesting that we seldom spent less than five to six hours in birding. Then a hot lunch at the old PWD guest house on the hill and back home. Consequently, it was always a full day trip and we hardly ever returned before sundown. This trip was special for me; because I had recently been presented with a new "modern" pair of binoculars and I was proudly flaunting it: a brand new "*Crown*" 7x35! It certainly helped to get a better look at the elusive little critters that we encountered during the trip.

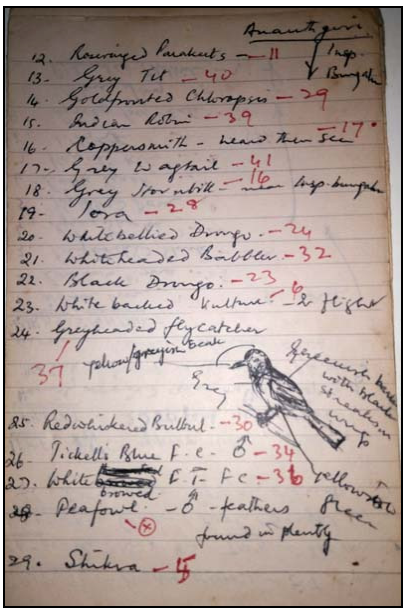
In those days, Ananthagiri was very different from what it is today. To begin with, the massive edifice of the Anantha Padmanabha Swamy Temple had not even been conceived. The deity was represented by a small stone, painted red, with a small alcove built over it, and presided over by a venerable ancient, dressed in raiment that had once been ochre coloured. He sat there, telling his beads and occasionally smiling at the gambols of the Bonnet Macaques as they played around beside him. An occasional patient from the nearby TB Sanatorium sometimes stopped to make obeisance and deposit his token offering of a flower or two to the deity, and the old man would nod complacently and mutter a prayer for the devout offeror. There were no other habitations here except for the largely deserted old PWD bungalow, which was a most quaint building and, though old, was well-maintained. I always used to love this elegant structure; it was positioned in the best possible place and caught the breeze from different directions. The large and sprawling veranda running around the house was always delightfully cool and refreshing, even during the summer months. Our current trip however, was in the cooler month of November; the date being the 20th of November, **1983**!

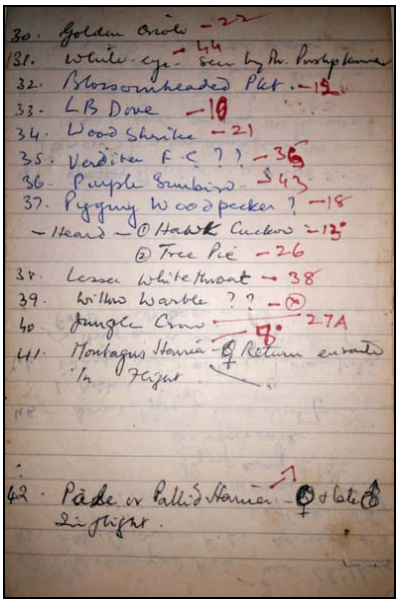
Our birding trips always started along a small track leading down from the PWD bungalow towards heavy forest in a direction diametrically opposite from the valley which we now frequent. This little path led to an area behind the TB Sanatorium and had good forest and tree cover. We had a good trek through the forest, starting about 8.30 in the morning and, by the time we returned to the guest house, it was past lunch-time. The Forest Department staff, in honour of the occasion (the Chief Conservator of Forests Mr. Pushp Kumar was, after all, the president of the BSAP) had organised a gastronomic orgy in the guise of a full three-course luncheon. Our own lunch-boxes augmented this Falstaffian spread, and it was a very jolly bunch of birders who, whilst enjoying the post-prandial *chai*, *paan* and cheroots (for those who were so inclined), wrote up the day-list and planned the next trip. Meantime, our society president, Mr. Pushp Kumar, regaled us with stories of Great Indian Bustards having been once recorded at a place called Gundala, which is close to a small village called Chevalla on the Vikarabad road. Since we had to pass this way on our return, we decided to make a short detour to the Gundala Village and perhaps interview some of the local inhabitants about the presence (or otherwise) of this interesting bird. Rollapadu, in those days, had not yet reached its present height of popularity, so the possible presence of the GIB so close to Hyderabad would indeed be a fine report to make to the scientific savants of Indian Ornithology.

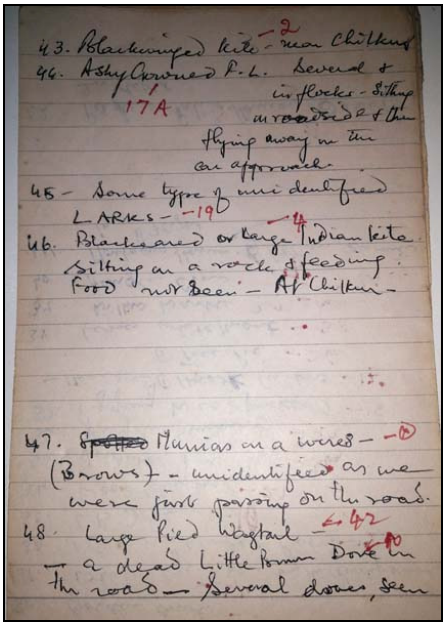
So to Gundala Village we went, and found it somewhat bereft of people. It was late afternoon and probably most of the village folk were out tilling the fields. Passing through the village, we at length espied a species of tea stall where sat several greybeards engaged in desultory conversation. We stopped the jeeps and got down and instantly caused a small sensation! Picture to yourself a very serviceable looking jeep, crammed to bursting point with about 8 young fellows, clad mostly in jungle-camouflage raiment, and led by a hefty gentleman, similarly clothed: add that to the fact that of late there had been considerable Naxalite activity in this area, and it is not to be wondered that all the ancients present would have been prepared to take their oath that the much-feared ultras had finally discovered their little village. To this day, I do not know if they ever learned of their error. But the upshot of this unfortunate meeting was that we got precious little co-operation from these old gentlemen. However, (please turn your eyes away Recording Angel), over the genial influence of a pot of palm-wine, tongues were loosened and we got the information we wanted. Bustards **had** been present in significant numbers in this area many years ago, but it had been long since any had been seen in recent times. The best estimate we got was a possible record from some 8 years back, and that too was a somewhat hazy timeline because none of our informants could keep track of years. Still, it was something gained, and this particular piece of information had a most interesting sequel. But of that, anon!

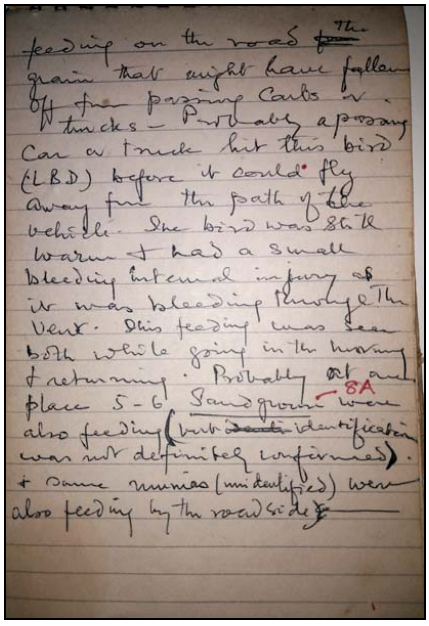
Below are the pages of our field notes from this trip…


TRIP TO:- ANANTHGIRI - 87 KMS.
DATE:- 20th NOV. '83 TIME:- 0800 Hrs →
WEATHER:- Clear, cool & bright.
Slight breeze. Sparse clouds.
TEMP:- 18°C approx when starting
HABITAT:- 2280 feet above MSL.
Heavily wooded area on the slopes of the hill. Forest & bushes spread around over an extensive area.
BIRDS SIGHTED:-
1. House Crow - 27 En route
2. Common Myna - 25
3. Bay backed Shrike - 20A
4. Grey Shrike ? - 20
5. Spotted Dove - 9
6. Cattle Egret - 1
7. Parakeet - 3
8. WBBH - 13A
9. Green Bee-eater - 14
10. Blue Jay - 15
11. Red vented Bulbul - 31


Anantgiri
12. Rosy ringed Parakeets - 11 Inspn Bungl
13. Grey Tit - 40
14. Goldfronted Chloropsis - 29
15. Indian Robin - 39
16. Coppersmith - heard then seen - 17
17. Grey Wagtail - 41
18. Grey Hornbill - 16 near Inspn bungl
19. Iora - 28
20. Whitebellied Drongo - 24
21. Whiteheaded Babbler - 32
22. Black Drongo - 23
23. White backed Vulture - 6 in flight
24. Greyheaded flycatcher
37
25. Redwhiskered Bulbul - 30
26. Tickell's Blue F.C. ♂ - 34
27. White browed F.C. - 36 yellowish
28. Peafowl - ♂ - feathers green found in plenty
29. Shikra - 5


30. Golden Oriole - 22
31. White eye - 44 seen by Mr. Pushp Kumar
32. Blossomheaded Pkt. - 12
33. LB Dove - 10
34. Wood Shrike - 21
35. Verditer F.C ?? - 35
36. Purple Sunbird - 43
37. Pygmy Woodpecker ? - 18
- Heard - Hawk Cuckoo - 13
Tree Pie - 26
38. Lesser Whitethroat - 38
39. Willow Warbler ?? - (M)
40. Jungle Crow - 27A
41. Montagus Harrier ♀ Return enroute In Flight
42. Pale or Pallid Harrier - ♂ & late ♂ in flight.


43. Blackwinged kite - 2 near Chilkur
44. Ashy Crowned F.L. Several + in flocks - Sitting on roadside & then flying away on the car approach.
17A
45 - Some type of unidentified LARKS - 19
46. Blackeared or large Indian kite. Sitting on a rock & feeding. Food not seen - At Chilkur -
47. Munias on a wires - 10 (Browns) - unidentified as we were just passing on the road.
48. Large Pied Wagtail - 42
a dead Little Brown Dove in the road - Several doves seen


feeding on the road the grain that might have fallen off the passing Carts or trucks - Probably a passing Car or truck hit this bird (LBD) before it could fly away from the path of the vehicle. The bird was still warm & had a small bleeding internal injury as it was bleeding through the vent. This feeding was seen both while going in the morning & returning. Probably at one place 5-6 Sandgrouse were 8A also feeding (but identification was not definitely confirmed). & some munias (unidentified) were also feeding by the roadside

The sequel to this trip and the information about the GIB was that two of us made it our business in later years, to make several trips to this place (on a sturdy Rajdoot 175cc motor-cycle). Although we never saw any Bustard, we learnt a few things. Bustards were called *Peddedu Pitta* in this area (this name was very localised and not known from other bustard areas. In Rollapadu, for example, the bird was called *Batta Meka Pakshi*). One farmer that we spoke to also identified Lesser Florican, which were also apparently seen in early days. Notwithstanding the lack of either Bustard or Florican, we did see some very interesting sights. A flock of more than 60 Indian Coursers in one field, a breeding pair of Red-headed Merlins, nests of Ashy-crowned Finch Larks and Sykes's Crested Larks, several roosting Harriers in the long grass-covered fallow fields. Oh yes, there were plenty of sights to make up for the lack of Bustards. Alas, many of these youthful memories have been rudely splintered. None of those ancient institutions now survive. The old PWD bungalow at Ananthagiri has been replaced by the Haritha Tourism Resort, Gundala Village is now almost a part of Chevalla town, and the fallow field where we saw 60 Indian Coursers is now the site of a five-storied apartment complex!

All in all, the first trip with the new *Crown* binoculars, was certainly the *beau-ideal* of an exciting inauguration! What think, others!?

Note: Several names may be unfamiliar to the younger set of birders. I suggest that readers use the following publications to identify the species:

1) Compact Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan by Salim Ali and S. Dillon Ripley

2) A Synopsis of the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent by S. Dillon Ripley

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